

PATENT**Remarks**

By this amendment claims 1, 11 and 19-21 have been amended. Claim 18 is canceled. Claims 1-17 and 19-22, are pending and reconsideration thereof is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C.§102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 11 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C.§102(b) as being anticipated by Alkire, U.S. Patent No. 4,043,891. The Examiner stated that Alkire discloses an apparatus for electrodeposition of metal onto substrates, such as printed circuit boards.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is directed to an apparatus for electrochemical metal plating, wherein an insulating adjustment plate is placed between a conductive perforated plate and a cathode object to be plated, such as a printed circuit board. The insulating adjustment plate has a number of holes (ie: windows) through which an electric field is directed toward the cathode object to be plated. (Specification, par. 44-51) In addition, the density of the holes corresponds to the density of the desired pattern of metal plating on the cathode object. These properties of the insulating adjustment plate enable the metal plating to be more uniformly distributed across the cathode object. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite this aspect of the invention and it is respectfully submitted that Alkire does not anticipate such a limitation. Alkire is silent as to any element regarding an insulating adjustment plate disposed between the object and the conductive perforated plate on the side of the object. Claims 2-6, 11 and 15-17 depend on claim 1, as amended. Therefore, Applicants believe the rejections under 35 U.S.C.§102 have been overcome.

PATENT**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

The Examiner rejected claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alkire et al. in view of The Condensed Chemical Dictionary. The Examiner stated that it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art to use copper as a conductive interconnect for the perforated plates. Claims 7 and 8 are dependent on claim 1, as amended. Independent claim 1 has been amended to distinguish Applicants' invention from Alkire, as discussed hereinabove. Therefore, Alkire in view of The Condensed Chemical Dictionary neither teaches nor suggests Applicants' claims 7 and 8.

The Examiner rejected claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alkire in view of Angelopoulos, U.S. Patent No. 5,300,208 and Takada et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,291,761B1. Claims 9 and 10 are dependent on claim 1, as amended. As noted above, independent claim 1 has been amended to distinguish Alkire. As such, Alkire in view of Angelopoulos and Takada neither teaches nor suggests Applicants' claims 9 and 10.

The Examiner rejected claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alkire. Claims 12-14 are dependent on claim 1, as amended. As noted above, independent claim 1 has been amended to distinguish Alkire. As such, Alkire neither teaches nor suggests Applicants' claims 12-14.

Therefore, Applicants believe the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) have been overcome.

PATENT**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph**

The Examiner rejected claims 11 and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner indicated that claims 11 and 18 recite limitations which relate the structure of the apparatus to the configuration workpiece to be plated. Claim 11 has been amended to more clearly describe the desired mechanical relationship between the conductive perforated plates and the cathode object. Furthermore, claim 18 has been canceled and claims 19-21 have been amended to depend on claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph have been overcome.

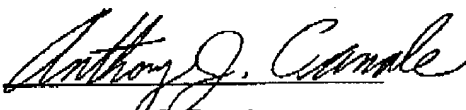
PATENT**Conclusion**

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims in the subject patent application are in condition for allowance and that the application be passed to issuance.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the number listed below if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would aid in furthering the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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